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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

JUL 25 1969

CIVIL DIVISION

Lieutenant General William F. Cassidy  
Chief of Engineers  
Corps of Engineers  
Department of the Army

Dear General Cassidy:

This is in reference to our draft report to the Congress entitled "Review of the administration of recreation fees under the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965" and the comments thereon from the Special Assistant (Civil Functions), Department of the Army dated January 13, 1969.

The letter of January 13, 1969, stated that the suggestions in our draft report were appropriate, but pointed out that Public Law 90-483, approved August 13, 1968, prohibited collection of entrance fees at areas under jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. As we had indicated in our draft report, this prohibition was to be effective after March 31, 1970.

Subsequent to the preparation of our draft report, the Corps terminated collection of fees, except for those areas where a user fee may be charged. This action was taken in response to the October 3, 1968, resolution of the Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives which stated that the new policy on fees charged the public at Corps of Engineers' reservoirs established by Public Law 90-483, should be implemented without further delay to assure immediate free access to these areas.

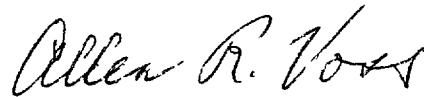
Since the Corps' action in discontinuing collection of entrance or admission fees is already in effect for the 1969 recreation year, and since Public Law 90-483 provides that there will be no collection of such fees after March 31, 1970, we believe that certain of our suggestions pertaining to fee regulations for the recreation year beginning April 1, 1969, are no longer appropriate. Accordingly, we do not plan to issue the report to the Congress.

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The Act of August 13, 1968, provides that user fees shall be collected from users of highly developed facilities requiring the continuous presence of personnel for maintenance and supervision of the facilities. During our review, we noted that user fees had not been established at any of the Corps' projects. Although the Department of the Army indicated that concessioners provide most of the special facilities at Corps areas which otherwise might be included in the user fee program, the Department may wish to review its practices on establishment of user fees to ensure that user fees are collected when permitted by the Act.

We wish to express our appreciation to you for the cooperation and assistance given by the Corps of Engineers to members of our staff during our review.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen R. Voss". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Allen R. Voss  
Associate Director